

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, 19, 24, 25 and 30-32 stand rejected. Claims 2-5, 8-11, 14-18, 20-23 and 26-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, and 25 have been canceled. These claims have been canceled so that the allowed claims will issue. Claims 2, 8, 14, 20, and 26 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the original base claim. Claims 6, 12, 18, 24, and 30-32 have been amended solely to depend on a claim indicated as allowable. No new matter has been added. Amendment or cancellation of the originally filed claims should in no way be construed as acquiescence, narrowing, or surrender of any subject matter. Applicant reserves the option to prosecute further the originally filed claims or other ones, in the instant or a subsequent patent application. The amendments are being made not only to point out with particularity and to claim the present invention, but also to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Further, silence with regard to any of the Examiner's rejections is not an acquiescence to such rejections. Specifically, silence with regard to Examiner's rejection of a dependent claim, when such claim depends from an independent claim that Applicant considers allowable for reasons provided herein, is not an acquiescence to such rejection of the dependent claim(s), but rather a recognition by Applicant that such previously lodged rejection is moot based on Applicant remarks and/or amendments relative to the independent claim (that Applicant considers allowable) from which the dependent claim(s) depends.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicant has not yet received initialed copies of Forms 1449 filed with the Information Disclosure Statements filed Sept. 9, 2002, Jan. 29, 2003, June 24, 2003 and August 7, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide initialed copies of these Forms 1449.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, 19, 24, 25 and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Blake in view of Spillman (US Patent 4,564,289). Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, and 25

have been canceled. Claims 6, 12, 24 and 30-32 have been amended to depend on a claim indicated as allowable. These cancellations and amendments render this rejection moot. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

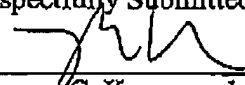
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-832-1000. Should an extension of time be required, Applicant hereby petitions for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely consideration of this application be charged to Deposit Account, No. 06-1448.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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